

REMARKS

In response to the outstanding Final Office Action, Applicants submit the present Amendment in combination with an RCE.

Claims 1, 3-8 and 12 stand objected to because of confusion as to what subject matter is being claimed. Claim 1 has been amended to recite an arrangement for sealing one member relative to another member. Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite in the preamble an “arrangement” for sealing one member relative to another member. The arrangement includes a fitted element, a fitting element and a sealing element that is disposed in an opening formed in the fitted element. Accordingly, the structure of the respective parts of the arrangement have been positively recited and therefore, the objection to these claims should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-8, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Claim 1 has been amended to make clear that there is only one obliquely protruding portion, with a second protruding part being part of the coupling feature. Based on the present amendment, Applicants submit that any confusion over the claim elements has been eliminated and therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-8 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as failing to clearly recite the structure of the sealing element. Applicants have amended claim 1 to more positively recite the relationship of the sealing element to the other parts which are now positively recited in the arrangement of parts now set forth in amended claim 1. Withdrawal of this rejection is now in order.

Claims 1, 3-8, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shimizu. Withdrawal of this rejection is in order based on the present amendment and the following comments. Claim 1 now recites that an arrangement for sealing one member relative to another member and includes a fitted element (which has an opening), a fitting element and a sealing element. The sealing element is interposed between an opening face of the fitted element and the fitting element and more particularly, the sealing element is disposed in the opening formed in the

Claim 10 should be allowed as depending from what should be an allowed independent claim 9.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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